

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      GEORGE 02521 132008Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01  
AID-05 IGA-02 /071 W

----- 113946 /43

P R 131845Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3863  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2521

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, GY, US  
SUBJECT: CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER REPORTS ON TALKS WITH  
PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: GEORGETOWN 2482 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER BRIEFED CHARGE ON  
SUBSTANCE OF TALKS HELD WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN  
MINISTER ON DECEMBER 8 AND 9. DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME  
MINISTER CENTERED AROUND BURNHAM'S SPEECH OF DECEMBER 14,  
GUYANESE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT AID AND BURNHAM'S SUSPICIONS  
OF SOVIET INTENTIONS. TALKS WITH WILLS CENTERED MOSTLY ON  
US-GOG RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE MET WITH CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ROGER LATE  
AFTERNOON DECEMBER 10. ROGER WISHED TO INFORM CHARGE OF  
CONVERSATIONS HE HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER  
ON SUBJECTS RELATING TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER. PRIME MINISTER  
TOLD ROGER THAT HIS SPEECH OF DECEMBER 14 IS PRI-  
MARILY TO ACQUAINT GUYANESE WITH ECONOMIC FACTS OF  
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PAGE 02      GEORGE 02521 132008Z

LIFE. THE SPEECH WILL NOT GET INTO BUDGETARY

CONSIDERATIONS SINCE PM BELIEVES HE MUST LAY FOUNDATION WITH HIS SPEECH (EMBASSY HEARD SPEECH ON BUDGET WILL NOT BE UNTIL EARLY JANUARY INSTEAD OF MIDDLE DECEMBER). BURNHAM SAID HE KNEW U.S. WAS CONCERNED ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE SPEECH RELATING TO DESTABILIZATION. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT PLAN TO ACCUSE U.S. OF ANYTHING BUT HE DID INTEND TO POINT OUT DESTABILIZING TACTICS OF CUBAN EXILES.

3. BURNHAM, THEN SWITCHING OFF THE SUBJECT OF THE SPEECH, MENTIONED THE IMPORTANT NEED FOR GUYANA TO RECEIVE DEVELOPMENT AID WITHOUT STRINGS. BURNHAM SAID THIS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT SINCE NO MATTER HOW FRIENDLY THE DONOR NATION MAY BE, AID IN ANY FORM IMPLIES CERTAIN CONTROLS BY THE DONOR OVER THE RECIPIENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, PRIME MINISTER MENTIONED THAT HE WAS VERY SUSPICIOUS OF SOVIET INTENTIONS TOWARD GUYANA, BOTH ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC. BURNHAM ALLUDED TO THE RECENT VISIT OF THE SOVIET ECONOMIC MISSION AND SAID DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATION GUYANA WAS NOT PREPARED TO GIVE QUOTE A PRO QUO TO THE SOVIET QUID UNQUOTE. AS A RESULT, THE LEADER OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION SAID THEY WOULD TAKE THE FINDINGS OF THE DELEGATION BACK TO MOSCOW FOR FURTHER STUDY. ROGER CONSTRUED FROM THIS STATEMENT THAT UNLESS GOG OFFERS SOME SORT OF CONCESSIONS, SOVIET AID WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING.

4. ROGER MENTIONED THAT PRIME MINISTER WAS VERY JOVIAL, THAT CONVERSATION RAN FOR AN HOUR AND A QUARTER. BURNHAM DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER HE WOULD ACCEPT PROFFERED INVITATION OF PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU TO VISIT CANADA WITHIN THE NEXT 3-4 MONTHS (REPORTED REFTEL).

5. CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. ROGER SAID DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WILLS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE DRIFT IN US-GOG RELATIONS. ROGER SAID WILLS WAS DISAPPOINTED  
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PAGE 03      GEORGE 02521 132008Z

THAT U.S. HAD NOT ACKNOWLEDGED THE CONCILIATORY SIGNALS HE HAD SENT TO WASHINGTON AND WAS DISTURBED THAT ANY FURTHER EROSION IN RELATIONS WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO GET THINGS BACK ON THE TRACK. ROGER SAID WILLS THOUGHT IT VITAL THAT BLACKEN RETURN TO GEORGETOWN BEFORE CHRISTMAS, OTHERWISE IT WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES IN ASSURING EASE IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE INCOMING

CARTER ADMINISTRATION. WILLS SAID THAT THE GOG HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED CONNECTIONS IN THE CARTER CAMP BUT NO MATTER HOW GOOD THESE CONNECTIONS MAY BE, IT WOULD NOT BE EASY TO NORMALIZE THE SITUATION IF RELATIONS ARE STILL IN DEEP FREEZE AFTER JANUARY 20.

6. WILLS CLAIMED THAT HE HAD USED HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TO INSURE HE DOES NOT ATTACK U.S. IN DECEMBER 14 SPEECH. WILLS SAID HE WAS AWARE OF U.S. SENSITIVITY OVER CHARGES OF DESTABILIZATION AND AS OF DECEMBER 9 DRAFT OF SPEECH DID NOT CONTAIN ANY STATEMENTS THAT WOULD UPSET WASHINGTON.

7. ON DIFFERENT SUBJECT, ROGER SAID WILLS POINTED OUT SHIFT IN GOG POLICY OVER INCOMING AID FUNDS. HERETOFORE, ALL QUESTIONS OF AID WERE HANDLED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD NOW BE GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATING AID PACKAGES IN COOPERATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WILLS SAID CABINET DECISION WAS TAKEN TO INSURE MFA WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE POLITICAL GUIDANCE AND THEIR "FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERTISE" IN HANDLING NEGOTIATIONS.

8. COMMENT: LAST ITEM MENTIONED PARA 7 MAY INDICATE A CERTAIN DOWNGRADING OF INFLUENCE OF DESMOND HOYTE AND MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. EMBASSY HAS HEARD RUMORS OF IMPENDING REORGANIZATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL HAVE LESS  
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PAGE 04      GEORGE 02521 132008Z

MINISTRIES WITH SOME TIGHTENING OF LINES OF AUTHORITY. THE MINISTRY MOST PROMINENTLY MENTIONED TO GET THE AX IS THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITIES DELEGATED TO OTHER MINISTRIES.  
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## Message Attributes

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